

## **ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES**

**May 1, 2002**

### **TOPICS IN THIS MONTH'S MINUTES:**

#### ***TECHNICAL TOPIC 1***

#### ***TECHNICAL TOPIC 2***

#### ***SPRING 2002 TSP MEETING PLANNING***

#### ***FALL 2002 TSP MEETING PLANNING***

#### ***SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATES***

- *Arsenic Fact Sheets*
- *Energy Audit*
- *Screening Data Collection Paper*

#### ***MEMBERSHIP & CO-CHAIR ISSUES***

- *Co-chair Election*

### **NEXT ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE CALL**

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#### **TECHNICAL TOPIC 1**

Jennifer Griesert (OERR) introduced herself as the new OERR staff lead for the Remedial Systems Evaluation (RSE) optimization effort. She reported that RSEs were completed at 20 sites in every EPA Region except Region 8 in 2000 and 2001. An individual report was prepared for each site, but no comprehensive guidance document has been drafted. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has recently become interested in the project, prompting OERR to reevaluate the manner in which the Agency follows up on the recommendations set forth in the individual RSE reports.

Between May and September, OERR will schedule conference calls with RPMs, site contractors, Jennifer, and Geotrans. The purpose of these calls is to discuss the recommendations and determine if any follow-up activities have been or should be taken. Calls for sites in Regions 1, 3, and 5 will be held the week of May 6-10. OERR is working with ORD to develop a guidance document on how to conduct capture zone analysis, which was identified as an issue in 17 of the 20 completed RSEs.

A draft fact sheet entitled *Effective Management of Pump & Treat Systems* is currently circulating among EPA Offices, Labs, and Regions. Comments on this fact sheet are due to Jennifer by May 10. OERR has reduced the target number of RSEs to be completed in FY02 from 10 to 4 or 5. Fewer RSEs will be conducted so that resources can be directed to following up on previously completed RSEs. OERR is looking for feedback from the Regions on the future of the initiative. At issue is whether this project should be funded and led by HQ, Regions, or states. A Branch Chief level discussion on this topic is scheduled to take place at the NARPM conference this summer.

Dave Jaros (USACE) asked if USACE has been involved in the follow-up activities. Jennifer said USACE has not been involved in follow-up activities to date, and she is unsure of their future role in the follow-up activities. Jim Dunn (Region 8 HSTL) asked to be kept informed of any RSE activities at the Summitville site in Region 8. Keith Arnold will distribute the draft fact sheet to the Forum. Any questions or comments should be directed to Jennifer or Kathy Yager (TIO).

## **TECHNICAL TOPIC 2**

David Abshire (Region 6 RPM) is considering a creative phased approach to remediate DNAPL, LNAPL, and dissolved phase at a wood treatment site in Texas. The approach combines containment of the source on three sides (open upgradient), evapotranspiration to control (and slow) the incoming ground water, and biodegradation of the dissolved phase within the "treatment cell." If successful, this approach would significantly decrease LTRA and O&M costs by eliminating the need for extraction wells and an engineered cap to control infiltration (i.e., head buildup) within the wall. In addition, the remedy would not trigger the stringent surface institutional controls usually required for a cap. To be able to model the dynamics of such a system, David requested contacts and further information on evapotranspiration rates for various tree types; rates versus tree maturity; and what trees would be recommended to reach a water table at 6 feet.

Ed Mead (USACE) recommended that David consider a combination of hybrid poplars and cottonwoods or willows. Poplars evapotranspire large amounts of water, but require significant maintenance. Forum members suggested that David contact the following people for more information:

- Steve Rock in Cincinnati (tel: 513-569-7149; email: [rock.steven@epa.gov](mailto:rock.steven@epa.gov));
- Steve McCutcheon in the Ecosystems Research Division of EPA's Athens lab (tel: 706-355-8235; email: [mccutcheon.steven@epa.gov](mailto:mccutcheon.steven@epa.gov));
- Marisa Latady (tel: 307-777-7541; email: [mlatad@state.wy.us](mailto:mlatad@state.wy.us)) at Wyoming DEQ;
- The former Midwest HSRC at Kansas State University (where they were conducting research on the use of poplars in phytoremediation); and
- Jerry Schnorr at the University of Iowa.

Bernie Schorle (Region 5) said there is an internet seminar on phytoremediation on Thursday, May 2, 2002. If any other EF members have suggestions for David, they should contact him directly (tel: 214-665-7188; email: [abshire.charles@epa.gov](mailto:abshire.charles@epa.gov)).

## **SPRING 2002 TSP MEETING PLANNING**

The spring 2002 TSP meeting will be held at the Magnolia Hotel in Denver, Colorado, from June 3-6, 2002 (with Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> being travel days). Vince Malott (GWF, Region 6) reviewed the draft agenda for the Monday indoor air sessions and Jim Dunn gave an overview of Wednesday's mining sessions.

The EF business session will be held on Tuesday afternoon. Among the topics to be discussed are:

- Co-chair elections;
- By-law change (2-year appointment);
- Rotating co-chair;
- Guidance review;
- New issue papers and topics;
- Technology development;
- ITRC interaction;
- NARPM interaction;
- Conference calls and meeting agenda development;
- Issue paper updates;
- New subjects, papers, and sponsors for issue papers;
- Fall 2002 meeting update;
- Spring 2003 meeting update; and
- Interaction with other programs (HSRCs, ITRC, RTDF NAPL Subgroup, etc.).

EF members should inform the co-chairs of additional topics they would like to discuss during the business session.

In terms of social activities, an outing to a baseball game is scheduled for Monday night (6/3), a Forum dinner is planned for Tuesday night (6/4), and the co-chair dinner will be Wednesday night (6/5).

Non-Forum members are invited to attend the sessions, space permitting.

Thursday's activities with the ITRC are scheduled through mid-afternoon. Forum members should plan to stay through the ITRC discussions. Friday is set aside for a travel day; the room block is covered through Friday morning.

### **FALL 2002 TSP MEETING PLANNING**

The Federal Facilities Forum (FFF) has the lead in planning the fall 2002 TSP Meeting. The FFF has decided not to hold the meeting in conjunction with a UXO conference in Florida in September. The co-chairs will update the Forum about the fall meeting at the spring meeting. The fall meeting subcommittee will begin looking into technical topics in the coming months.

### **SPECIAL PROJECT UPDATES**

#### ***Arsenic Fact Sheets***

Chet Janowski (Region 1) sent Linda Fiedler (TIO) the final EF workgroup comments on the draft fact sheets. Linda is incorporating these comments into the fact sheets and should have them finalized in time for the spring TSP meeting.

#### ***Energy Audit***

Kelly Madalinski (TIO) and Mike Gill (Region 9 HSTL) have been working with Geotrans to finish a draft of the energy audit checklist. Peter Soika (GeoTrans, Inc.) is incorporating the checklist into the RSE at a site in Region 1. Mike hopes to incorporate the checklist into the RSE at the Summittville site. The co-chairs will set aside 5 minutes at the spring meeting for an update on this project.

#### ***Screening Data Collection Paper***

Ed Mead, JoAnn Camacho (ERT/Edison), and Kaushalya Khanna (Region 5) are working on the in situ water process parameters and corresponding analytical tables and sampling justifications for the screening data collection paper. They hope to complete the in situ water and analytical part by the spring meeting. If any EF members are interested in helping with this effort, they should contact Ed.

### **MEMBERSHIP & CO-CHAIR ISSUES**

#### ***Co-Chair Election***

Forum members are reminded to submit nominations for the new co-chair to the present co-chairs. Self nominations are welcomed. The EF will vote for a replacement for Camille Hueni (Region 6) at the spring 2002 meeting. Nominations are due to the co-chairs by May 3, 2002. The Forum will vote on changes to the EF by-laws (limiting co-chair terms) during the business session at the spring meeting.

### **NEXT ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE CALL**

The Engineering Forum will not have a call in June on account of the Spring TSP Meeting. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CALL IS ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, AND THE DIAL-IN NUMBER AND ACCESS CODE HAVE CHANGED FOR THIS CALL ONLY.** The newly elected co-chair will lead this call.

#### **Attendees**

Chet Janowski, Region 1

Kaushalya Khanna, Region 5

Bernie Schorle, Region 5  
David Abshire, Region 6 (RPM)  
Stacey Bennett, Region 6  
Camille Hueni, Region 6  
Vince Malott, Region 6 (GWF)  
Steve Kinser, Region 7  
Fran Costanzi, Region 8  
Jim Dunn, Region 8 (HSTL)  
Bill Rothenmeyer, Region 8  
Mike Gill, Region 9 (HSTL)  
Neil Thompson, Region 10  
Kelly Madalinski, TIO  
Jennifer Griesert, OERR  
Ken Brown, NERL/Las Vegas

Trish Erickson, NRMRL/Cinc.  
Dave Jaros, USACE  
Ed Mead, USACE  
Jim Harrington, NYSDEC  
Ali Tavelli, WY DEQ  
Keith Arnold, EMS, Inc.